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stricken household and reported his failure. The exact date when the young man left his home can not be discovered but it appears to have been some time in the fall or winter of 1835. After William T. Malone had arrived in Texas he wrote one letter to his mother which family tradition says she carried on her person until it was worn out.

In the fall of 1835 San Antonio was besieged and in December it was captured from the Mexicans by a portion of the Texan army under the command of Colonel Milam. An incomplete muster roll on file in the General Land Office shows that on November 23 Malone was a member of Captain T. F. L. Parrott's company of artillery, but whether he was with Milam in the storming of the Alamo is uncertain.

On the second day after the beginning of the siege of the Alamo by the Mexicans Colonel Travis sent Ben F. Highsmith to La Bahia, a distance of more than ninety miles, to Colonel Fannin, asking for aid. Highsmith says that when he left San Antonio there was in the Alamo a young man by the name of Bill Malone, and his description of the young man's person and estimate of his age correspond with the description given by the family. They both speak of the young man's having lost the little finger on his left hand. Highsmith escaped from San Antonio at night, and carried the message from Travis to Fannin. Fannin was unable to send aid to Travis, stating that his command was on foot and without supplies to undertake the expedition. Thereupon Highsmith returned to San Antonio and from a distance saw that the Alamo was surrounded. He turned back and sought and found Houston and his army and later participated in the battle of San Jacinto. The Alamo, after a desperate defense of two weeks was stormed and all persons within its walls were slain except the negro man belonging to Colonel Travis, and Mrs. Dickinson and her infant child.

After the war was over, the father of young Malone sent an agent to Texas to learn the fate of his son. This person saw both the negro who had belonged to Travis, and Mrs. Dickinson, and they both said that there was a young man in the Alamo by the name of Malone, and Mrs. Dickinson said that she saw him die, fighting bravely to the last.

It appears that land certificates were issued to the heirs of Wil-

liam T. Malone for services rendered to the Republic of Texas by him. These certificates declare that he was killed in the defense of the Alamo.¹ They were taken back or sent back to his mother, and she declared in her grief that she would not have them, for they were bought with the price of her son's blood.

The last inexplicable fact remains; notwithstanding that all these facts appear to be well established, yet the name of William T. Malone never seems to have been on the original muster rolls of the men who fought and fell at the Alamo, nor upon the copy of the rolls that yet remains in the Land Office, nor upon the monument that perpetuates the names and fame of the heroic dead. Was his name upon the original muster rolls that were destroyed in the burning of the Adjutant General's office before the Civil War?² Was his name casually omitted from the copy of the rolls that chanced to be preserved from the fire? Or did Malone fight like Smith of the Wynd "with a free hand, belonging to no company or clan"? Did he arrive at the Alamo just in time to enter its fatal walls? Crockett came to the Alamo almost alone. Did Malone come in the same way? Mrs. Dickinson says that he had been there but a short time and belonged to the same mess as her husband. By some mischance his name has not been preserved on roll or monument, but let it be placed forever in the historical records of Texas. Let not the name of the wayward but heroic young man be forgotten.

¹The records of the Land Office show that headright certificate No. 274 for a league and labor of land was issued February 2, 1838, to Elijah Anderson, assignee of William T. Malone, by the land commissioners of San Augustine County in consideration of Malone's having arrived in Texas previous to the declaration of independence; that bounty warrant No. 4005 for 1920 acres was issued by the Secretary of War to the heirs of Malone July 5, 1838, for his services in the Texas Army from September 26, 1835, to March 6, 1836; that donation warrant No. 420 for 640 acres was issued to his heirs by the Secretary of War July 6, 1838, for his having fallen in the Alamo; and that duplicate No. 29/236 was issued by the Commissioner of the General Land Office March 29, 1871, in place of a lost original headright certificate for one-third of a league issued by the land commissioners of Harris county in the name of Malone. The date and number of this lost original are not known. The "Lost Book of Harris," in the Land Office, shows that evidence was furnished the commissioners of Harris county to the effect that Malone was killed in the Alamo. The information contained in this note was kindly furnished by the Commissioner of the General Land Office.

²This fire occurred October 10, 1853.